

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-13, 15-17, 21, and 23-25 are pending in the application. Claims 14 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 7, 11, 13, 15, and 21 have been amended, and claims 24 and 25 are newly added. Support for the claim amendments and additions can be found in the original disclosure as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Art Rejections

1. In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6-8, 13, and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,877,327 (Erm). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent claims 1, 13, and 21 have been amended to even more clearly recite features of Applicants' invention.

Independent Claim 1, as presently presented, recites, among other things, a shaft arm connected to the socket body, the shaft arm being configured to fit in an opening of a female fastener to turn the female fastener, and the shaft arm being hollow and having an opening in a distal end thereof.

Erm fails to disclose such features. Erm discloses a unitary tool having sockets attached to the free ends of two arms, which are cross-connected like a T or L wrench handle (Fig. 2, col. 1, ln. 61-65). However, Erm fails to disclose or suggest "a shaft arm connected to the socket body, the shaft arm being configured to fit in an opening of a female fastener to turn the female fastener, and the shaft arm being hollow and having an opening in a distal end thereof," as

presently recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over the Erm patent.

Independent claims 13 and 21 are directed to multi-purpose hand tools, and each recites features similar to those of claim 1 discussed above (claim 21 being in means-plus-function format). Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 13 and 21 are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1.

2. **Claims 4, 5, 9, and 12** were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Erm in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,856,387 (Gibson). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 5, 9, and 12 depend from independent claim 1 and, therefore, include all of the features of that claim.

Gibson discloses a wrench having a body with a plurality of open cavities, and two perpendicularly disposed handles, each handle having a hexagonal cross-section. However, Gibson fails to remedy the deficiencies in the Erm patent noted above with respect to independent claim 1.

Accordingly, claims 4, 5, 9, and 12 are allowable by virtue of their dependency from claim 1, as well as for the additional features that they recite.

3. **Claims 7 and 8** were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Erm in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,768,961 (Frawley). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7 and 8 depend from independent claim 1 and, therefore, include all of the features of that claim.

Frawley discloses a self-adjusting socket for a wrench handle, having a plurality of movable pins configured to fit a variety of nut or bolt head sizes. However, Frawley fails to remedy the deficiencies in the Ern patent noted above with respect to independent claim 1.

Accordingly, claims 7 and 8 are allowable by virtue of their dependency from claim 1, as well as for the additional features that they recite.

4. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ern in view of Gibson, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,285,543 (Rowe). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 depends from independent claim 1 and, therefore, includes all of the features of that claim.

As noted above, Gibson discloses a wrench having a body with a plurality of open cavities, and two perpendicularly disposed handles, each handle having a hexagonal cross-section. However, Gibson fails to remedy the deficiencies in the Ern patent noted above with respect to independent claim 1.

Rowe discloses a combination tool device, having a double ended socket wrench and a handle with a screwdriver tip. However, Rowe likewise fails to remedy the deficiencies in the Ern patent noted above with respect to independent claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 10 is allowable by virtue of its dependency from claim 1, as well as for the additional features that it recites.

5. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Erm and Gibson in view of Rowe, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,260,452 B1 (Yu). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11 depends from independent claim 1 and, therefore, includes all of the features of that claim.

As noted above, Gibson discloses a wrench having a body with a plurality of open cavities, and two perpendicularly disposed handles, each handle having a hexagonal cross-section. However, Gibson fails to remedy the deficiencies in the Erm patent noted above with respect to independent claim 1.

As also noted above, Rowe discloses a combination tool device, having a double ended socket wrench and a handle with a screwdriver tip. However, Rowe likewise fails to remedy the deficiencies in the Erm patent noted above with respect to independent claim 1.

Yu discloses a two-axle tool having a connection member attached to a polygonal rod, the polygonal rod having two engaging ends for engagement with removable sockets. However, Yu also fails to remedy the deficiencies in the Erm patent noted above with respect to independent claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 11 is allowable by virtue of its dependency from claim 1, as well as for the additional features that it recites.

6. Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Erm in view of Rowe. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 depends from independent claim 1 and, therefore, includes all of the features of that claim.

As noted above, Rowe discloses a combination tool device, having a double ended socket wrench and a handle with a screwdriver tip. However, Rowe fails to remedy the deficiencies in the Erm patent noted above with respect to independent claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 14 is allowable by virtue of its dependency from claim 1, as well as for the additional features that it recites.

7. Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Erm in view of Rowe, and further in view of Gibson. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Rowe discloses a combination tool device, having a double ended socket wrench and a handle with a screwdriver tip. However, Rowe fails to remedy the deficiencies in the Erm patent noted above with respect to independent claim 1.

As also noted above, Gibson discloses a wrench having a body with a plurality of open cavities, and two perpendicularly disposed handles, each handle having a hexagonal cross-section. However, Gibson likewise fails to remedy the deficiencies in the Erm patent noted above with respect to independent claim 1.

8. Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Erm in view of Rowe and Gibson, and further in view of Frawley. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Rowe discloses a combination tool device, having a double ended socket wrench and a handle with a screwdriver tip. However, Rowe fails to remedy the deficiencies in the Erm patent noted above with respect to independent claim 1.

As also noted above, Gibson discloses a wrench having a body with a plurality of open cavities, and two perpendicularly disposed handles, each handle having a hexagonal cross-

section. However, Gibson likewise fails to remedy the deficiencies in the Erm patent noted above with respect to independent claim 1.

As also noted above, Frawley discloses a self-adjusting socket for a wrench handle, having a plurality of movable pins configured to fit a variety of nut or bolt head sizes. However, Frawley also fails to remedy the deficiencies in the Erm patent noted above with respect to independent claim 1.

9. New claims 24 and 25 depend from independent claim 1, and recite additional features of Applicants' invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited documents.

New claims 24 and 25 are allowable by virtue of their dependence from independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features that they recite.

In one particular, new claim 24 recites that "each of the socket body and the shaft arm is sized to be 1-2 inches in length."

In another particular, new claim 25 recites that "the first and second sockets are detachably connected to the socket body by first and second drive posts, respectively, and wherein each of the first and second drive posts has a ratchet drive mechanism connected thereto to permit ratcheting of the first and second drive posts."

None of the cited documents discloses such features of the present invention.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1-13, 15-17, 21, and 23-25 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under §§ 102 and 103 and an early notice of allowance.

If any issue remains unresolved that would prevent allowance of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney to resolve the issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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